

AMENDMENTS TO THE ABSTRACT

Please amend the Abstract with the following changes

An assay for assessing the risk of disease in an individual, wherein said the assay comprises the steps of isolating a population of cells from normal tissue of said the individual, and quantitatively determining the frequency of epimutation of a particular gene in said the population of cells, wherein the epimutation of said the gene is associated with said the disease and said the gene is other than one that is subject to normal parent of origin-specific expression. Preferably, the epimutation is DNA methylation of a tumor ~~supressor~~ suppressor gene such as *hMLH1*, *hMSH2*, *APC 1A*, *APC 1B*, and *p16*.